



ASSOCIATION FOR SURGICAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear ASE Members and Supporters of the ASEF,

It has been both a joy and honor to serve as the President of YOUR ASE Foundation for the last two years. At our May meeting, I will hand off this role to the gifted stewardship of Dr. Megan Miller, who has been our Vice President

for the last two years. I am grateful for the work of our Board to stretch the Foundation's mission in new ways; our Strategic Planning meeting in August of 2024 was well-supported by Dale Dullabaun and Lois Ehrlich from BSC, and I am excited about the directions for growth that were identified by our Exec with the addition of Drs. Alan Harzman and Dimitrios Stefanidis.

We have revised our mission to emphasize our commitment to sustainable support for innovation, research and professional development programs of the ASE and its members, and we hope that you will see that lived out in the first ever Coordinator and LMIC educator scholarships supporting attendance at the ASE meeting. While core commitment to the flagship ASE programs of SERF and CESERT remains firm, we are excited to explore ways that we can build on the Foundation's success in support of our three pillars: strengthening stewardship, expanding available resources, and enriching support for surgical education.

It has been a privilege to lead the Foundation during such a dynamic time, and our future looks so very bright to me. I want to personally thank all of you who have supported the Foundation's efforts in support of the DaRosa scholarship or our general fund, and I look forward to welcoming more of you to this generous group of surgical educators who support our Foundation.

Amalia Cochran, MD. MAASE Foundation  
President, 2023-2025

## DEBRA DAROSA CAREER DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP



The DaRosa Scholarship was established to honor Dr. DaRosa's profound impact on surgical education, as the first PhD President of the Association for Surgical Education and a mentor to many surgical educators. Funded by the ASE Foundation, this scholarship

supports early-career ASE members pursuing further education in surgical education. The endowed scholarship aims to advance the careers of surgical educators, fostering continued growth in the field. The scholarship was awarded for the first time in 2024, just two years after fundraising began in 2021, with Dr. Justin Wagner as the first awardee.

*Thank you to our Donors for honoring Dr. Debra DaRosa with your support of this scholarship!*



## VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

**VISION:** Advancing Careers and Scholarship in Surgical Education.

**MISSION:** Provide sustainable support for innovation, research, and professional development programs of the Association for Surgical Education and its members.

## 2024 CESERT PYRAMID GRANTS

# INTUITIVE™

*Thank you to Intuitive for  
Sponsoring two Giant Robot Grants!*

The ASEF funded 13 surgical education research grants in 2024—all made possible by your generous donations! We are excited to share updates from some of our research teams below.

### GIANT ROBOT (\$25,000) Sponsored by Intuitive

#### Advancing Robotic Surgery Education: Development and Validation of the Clutch Proficiency Index (CPI)

Irving Zamora, MD, MPH, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Our primary objective is to develop and validate a novel proficiency index that enhances robotic surgical education, ultimately improving surgical outcomes and reducing training times. The Clutch Proficiency Index (CPI) will serve as a metric to assess and enhance surgeons' proficiency in using robotic systems. This index will be tested in simulated environments to evaluate the precision and efficiency of surgical tasks.



CESERT Giant Robot Awardees with Dr. Sarah Jung, CESERT Review Committee Chair, and Dr. Cochran.



### GIANT ROBOT (\$25,000) Sponsored by Intuitive

#### Development of a National Interprofessional Team Training Simulation for Emergency Robot Undocking

Douglas Cassidy, MD, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)

Our project aims to develop a comprehensive emergency undocking curriculum for robotic surgery teams through thematic analysis of debriefing session transcripts following in situ simulation sessions. We believe that analyzing the themes uncovered in these pilot simulations will provide invaluable insights to define the guidelines and roles essential for effective emergency undocking protocols. By conducting these simulations with operative team members lacking formal training, we aim to identify latent safety threats, inefficiencies, and team challenges, ultimately leading to the creation of an evidence-based, broadly applicable national curriculum.



Kern's Six-Step Approach to Curriculum Development as applied to our emergency undocking simulation curriculum.

**YOUR SUPPORT HELPS FUND OUR GRANTS FOR ASE MEMBERS**

[www.surgicaleducation.com/your-donation](http://www.surgicaleducation.com/your-donation)





FCS study team. **Top row, left to right:** Gretchen Schwarze, MD, Carly Sobol, MD, Kim Kopecky, MD. **Middle row, left to right:** Anna Newcomb, PhD, MSW, LCSW, Amber Shada, MD, Rob Bynum, BS. **Bottom row, left to right:** Emily Rivet, MD, MBA, Katherine Hill, MD, and Lauren Taylor, MD

## PLATINUM (\$10,000)

### The Fundamentals of Communication in Surgery Curriculum: A Multisite Pilot Study

Amber Shada, MD, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Surgical education in its current form has almost no structured curriculum that focuses on attending to emotion, support of patients in deliberation of decision surrounding surgery, and managing uncertainty of decision making. This grant and the multisite pilot project will determine the feasibility of delivering such a curriculum with fidelity and impact. The potential impact of such a curriculum is huge and perhaps even a paradigm shift in the way we train residents to counsel patients on surgical decision making.

## DIAMOND (\$2,500)

### Comparison of Analog and Digital Recording in Video Based Assessment of ATLAS Tasks

Darian Hoagland, MD, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

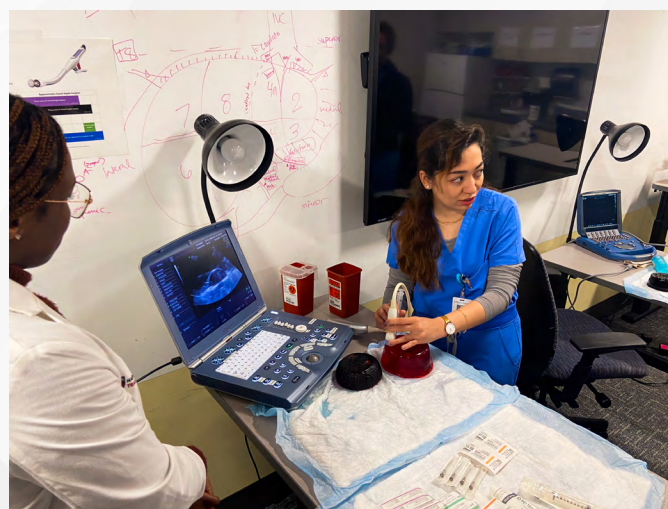
Research Design: This is a multi-institutional, mixed-methods, observational cohort study. The subjects will perform three ATLAS tasks (Needle Handling, Off-Set Camera Forehand Suturing, and Confined Space Suturing) and three methods of video capture will be used [analog-to-digital conversion (AD), off-set iPhone recording (OSiP), and centered iPhone recording (CiP)]. A paired design will be used to test whether the paired mean difference ( $\delta$ ) in the in-person vs video-based scores is different from 0 ( $H_0: \delta = 0$  versus  $H_1: \delta \neq 0$ ). After performing the tasks, subjects will complete a post-participation survey measuring their attitudes towards the analog and iPhone camera experiences.

## GOLD (\$500)

### Ultrasound Training in Advanced Practice Providers

Shaghayegh Sabbaghan Kermani, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital

This grant-supported research will advance surgical education by introducing a tailored, competency-based ultrasound training curriculum for Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. By equipping APPs with essential point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) skills, this program enhances their ability to support surgical teams, improve diagnostic accuracy, and perform procedures with greater precision. The hybrid learning model, combining online modules and hands-on simulation, offers a scalable framework that can be adapted to other clinical settings, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and elevating the overall quality of patient care in surgical education.



Shay Sabbaghan, MD, is teaching the learners ultrasound-guided IV access.

## GOLD (\$500)

### Fostering Growth Mindsets in Surgical Interns: A Pilot Study

Michael Kochis, MD, EdM, Massachusetts General Hospital

This project entails the development, implementation, and evaluation of a curriculum which seeks to foster growth mindsets in surgical interns. The curriculum consists of evidence-based, interactive workshops adapted to the surgical residency context spaced over the course of the year.

**Thank you to Intuitive for Sponsoring the Giant Robot Grants! 2024: \$50,000**

**We are thrilled to fund \$70,000 in CESERT grants for 2025!**

A special THANK YOU to Intuitive for your generosity and continuous support of (2)\$25,000 Giant Robot Grants!

We look forward to announcing the 2025 grant awardees at the ASE Banquet in Seattle on May 9, 2025!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 ASE FOUNDATION DONORS

(January 1, 2024 - March 1, 2025)

PLATINUM: \$5,000 & ABOVE

Travis & Kristen Heriaud  
David Rogers, M.D.  
Mohsen Shabahang, M.D., Ph.D.

GOLD: \$2,500-\$4,999

Amalia Cochran, M.D.

SILVER: \$1,000 – \$2,499

Michael Awad, M.D.  
Marc de Moya, M.D.  
Aimee Gardner, Ph.D.  
Kim Hendershot, M.D.  
Hee Soo Jung, M.D.  
Mary Klingensmith, M.D.  
Barbara Pettitt, M.D.  
Dimitrios Stefanidis, M.D.  
Susan Steinemann, M.D.

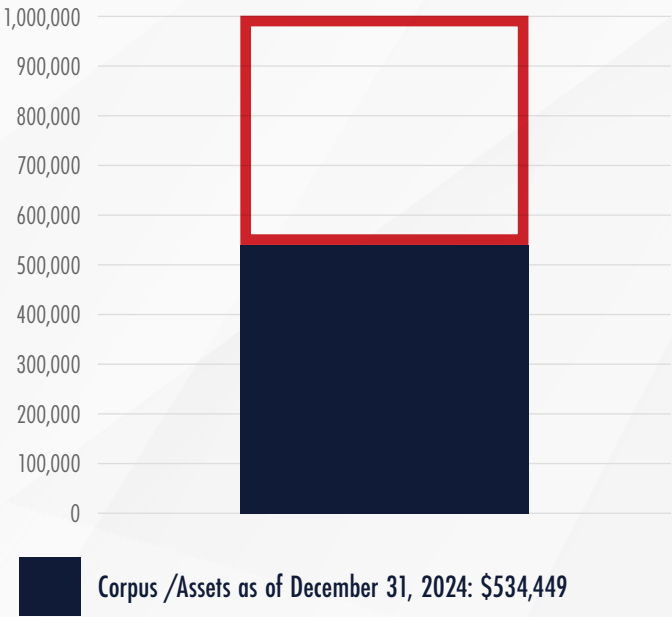
BRONZE: \$250 – \$999

Robert Acton, M.D.  
Jeffrey Chipman, M.D.  
Osama Elsayy, M.D.  
Amy Halverson, M.D.  
Sarah Jung, Ph.D.  
Alan Ladd, M.D.  
James Lau, M.D.  
Juliet Lee, M.D.  
Tyler Loftus, M.D.  
Megan Miller, M.D.  
Dmitry Nepomnayshy, M.D.  
Kevin Pei, M.D.  
E.Matthew Ritter, M.D.  
Rachel Slotcavage, M.D.  
Laura Torbeck, M.D.

\$249 AND UNDER

Anita Acai, M.D.  
John Armstrong, M.D.  
Christie Buonpane, M.D.  
Timothy DaRosa  
Tracey Dechert, M.D.  
Sandhu Gurjit, M.D.  
Ellen Hagopian, M.D.  
Amy Halverson, M.D.  
James Hebert, M.D.  
Phillip Huber, M.D.  
Rebecca Hoffman, M.D.  
Lindsay Kranker, M.D.  
Richard Lynn, M.D.  
Afif Kulaylat, M.D.  
Tyler Loftus, M.D.  
John Murnaghan, M.D.  
Jeffrey Nahmias, M.D.  
John Paige, M.D.  
Joseph Posid, M.D.  
Susan Reid, M.D.  
Rommel Sagana, M.D.  
Sabrina Sanchez, M.D.  
John Savino, M.D.  
Christiana Shaw, M.D.  
Caitlin Silvestri, M.D.  
Brian Saunders, M.D.  
Alexandria Soto, M.D.  
Sanda Tan, M.D.  
Manish Tandon, M.D.  
Laura Torbeck, M.D.  
Catherine Unruh, M.D.  
Justin Wagner, M.D.  
Sophia Williams-Perez,M.D.

ON OUR WAY TO THE FIRST MILLION!



Our Newest Travel Grants:  
COORDINATOR SCHOLARSHIP  
AND LMIC TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

The purpose of these new scholarships is to subsidize ASE Members’ participation in the annual meeting that will enhance their work as surgical educator. One scholarship will be awarded to a Coordinator in Surgical Education and another one to an international member of ASE from a low or middle income country (LMIC).

We are excited to share that the first scholarships will be awarded at the ASE Annual Meeting in Seattle in 2025.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US!

The Foundation’s leadership extends their thanks and gratitude to all who have donated and supported our mission to provide sustainable support for innovation, research and professional development programs.